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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 25, 2008. Claims 1-20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 11 and 12 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter thereof. Accordingly, claims 1-20 remain pending upon entry of this amendment, with claims 1 and 11 being in independent form.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as purportedly being anticipated by Baba et al. (US 20060173292 A1).

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is allowable over the cited art, for at least the reason that the cited art does not disclose or suggest the aspects of the present application that portions of regions in the functional image (based on biological function data calculated from the tomograms) are displayed by an overlapped display. Each of independent claims 1 and 11 addresses such aspects, as well as additional features. As discussed in the application at, for example, paragraphs [0082] and [0085], displaying the portions in an overlapped manner enables many advantages to be obtained, such as, for example, it can be learned at a glance that there is occurring an abnormal condition of a plurality of parameters at a certain region, a positional relationship can be easily grasped relative to an outer region (such as the skull) to facilitate diagnosis, etc.

Baba, as understood by applicant, proposes an approach for tracking movement of a tissue applied to an image diagnostic apparatus (such as ultrasound diagnostic apparatus, MRI apparatus, X-ray CT), including producing a tomographic image of an object to be examined, storing a plurality of frames of the tomographic image, and displaying a moving image based on the plurality of frames of the tomographic image, designating a desired portion of the tomographic image with a mark, tracking the mark on the desired portion of the moving image

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from image information of the desired portion. The approach proposed in Baba can also include displaying a one-frame image of the moving image and superposing the mark on the designated portion of the tissue, the movement of which is tracked in the one-frame image.

While Baba proposes displaying a moving image based on a plurality of frames of the tomographic image and superposing a tracking mark on a displayed image, Baba neither discloses nor suggest portions of regions in the functional image (based on biological function data calculated from the tomograms) are displayed by an overlapped display.

Baba mentions that it has been proposed to superpose an outline of an atrium or cardiac ventricle on the displayed image in some instances. However, Baba also teaches away from such approach by emphasizing that such proposed approach does not enable a sufficiently accurate result to be obtained (see Baba, [0004]).

In any event, the outline is not based on based on biological function data calculated from the tomograms.

Baba does not anticipate the pending claims of the present application, for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

Further, it is noted that this application and Baba are commonly-owned by Hitachi Medical Corporation, Tokyo, Japan. Therefore, Baba cannot preclude patentability of the invention claimed in this application under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c).

In view of the remarks hereinabove, applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our

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Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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